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DPD-3131-59

8 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Contracts Branch, DPD

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SUBJECT : Memo from DD/P dated 7 May 1959 (CHAL-0663)

Subj: Program Approval - [] (CHAL-0657)

1. I am passing along Mr. Bissell's memo to you (CHAL-0663) wherein he expresses his criticism of the manner in which CHALICE 0657 reached his desk for approval. I believe in the case of this document you do not appear to have participated in its design or its transmission through this office to the DD/P. Consequently, I would suggest that you do not take these comments of the DD/P too personally. I have discussed this matter with [] who drafted the bulk of the program approval document, and with [] who signed it.

2. I believe Mr. Bissell's discontent in this instance stems largely from the way in which the information was presented to him rather than from the substance of the paper. Unfortunately it was not possible to include all of the pertinent facts bearing on this program approval in the short form method. I have particular reference to his comments in para. 5 of his memo, which were critical of the utilization of Lockheed money to support the [] objective. As you will see from reading the program approval, it was necessary to program the installation of the [] kits in the U-2 aircraft against the SP-1918 contract since this work was in effect a modification of the air frame, which is an item of equipment over which [] has no cognizance. As you know, SP-1918 is sufficiently general to accommodate any of the modifications called for as well as for the IRAN of the vehicle.

3. Despite my obvious attempt here to soften the blow, I do think we have a fundamental question to consider and that is the possibility that the program approval form as presently laid out does not provide sufficient room to give a meaningful digest of a program, especially when it is composed of more than one major item, or where it involves more than one manufacturer. I would therefore appreciate your reactions to my suggestion that we might perhaps wish to make this a two-page form in those cases where the approval is complicated or at the very least, to make provision for the attachment of a supplemental briefing sheet when these conditions prevail.

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 AUTH: []
 DATE: 8 Dec 81

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
 Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

Distr: (over)

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division
SUBJECT : CHAL-0663 dated 7 May 1959 commending of Program
Approval [redacted]

1. Your assumption that the Contracting Officer, DPD is reviewing all program approvals is not quite correct. My understanding is that each Branch Chief is responsible for generating the requirement for approval prior to procurement action being ~~an~~ ^{an} undertaking. Under standard procedures the Contracting activity never reviews requirements to insure they are in the proper form. During the functional changes within DPD I took a ~~very~~ ^{personal} personal interest in the situation since I was effected to the greatest degree. At your request I have been ready to assist Branch Chiefs in any way possible in the preparation of Program Approvals. A meeting was held several weeks ago in this ~~in this~~ regard. I have completely reviewed some program approvals, portions of others, but in a number of cases have not been cognizant of the Program Approvals submission to you until after your approval. The extent of the review has depended upon the Branch Chiefs desires.

2. I did not review the original [redacted] Approval. I reviewed ^{paragraph} 4 (total estimated cost) of the Supplemental Program Approval. When I asked about the [redacted] (Lockheed portion) I was advised that the Chief, Materiel Branch was responsible for this item and would or had taken the required action. As you are aware I will do whatever you desire in this regard but the review of Program Approvals should, in my opinion, be a function within the office of DPD/DD/P. It is essential that one person review them to ~~present uniformity for consistency.~~

3. The ~~form~~ ^{provision of approval} form was printed to provide a format rather than a blank to fill in. This is evident by the Program Approvals on CORONA and GUSTO previously ~~forwarded to you.~~
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a limited application.

4. [] advises me that at the time Lockheed submitted their request under SP-1918 for an additional [] under SP-1918 and [] under SP-1917 they were cognizant of the [] requirement, and it is included therein.

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